

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES FOR MRS. KISSINGER'S TRAVEL

REF: STATE 231691

1. AS REQUESTED IN TEFTTEL, FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES
FOR MRS. KISSINGER'S TRAVEL:

VENUTAI CHAVAN (PRONOUNCED CHA-VAN'), WIFE OF THE
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: MRS. CHAVAN IS A SHY, GENTLE,
ATTRACTIVE WOMAN, SOME YEARS JUNIOR TO THE FOREIGN
MINISTER. SHE SPEAKS VERY LITTLE ENGLISH AND USUALLY DOES
NOT ACCOMPANY HER HUSBAND TO SOCIAL FUNCTIONS. SHE IS
DISTINCTLY UNCOMFORTABLE IN A WESTERN ENVIRONMENT. THE
CHAVANS HAVE NO CHAILDREN.

SHAKUNTALA SUBRAMANIAM (PRONOUNCED SOO-BRA-MON'-EUM),
WIFE OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE: MRS. SUBRAMANIAM WILL
ATTEND THE SECRETARY'S DINNER ALONG WITH HER HUSBAND.
SHE SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL, HOLDS A DEGREE IN HISTORY AND
ECONOMICS, AND DEVOTES A GOOD PORTION OF HER TIME TO SOCIAL
WORK. SHE HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO ADAPT TO THE DELHI CLIMATE
AND SPENDS MUCH OF THE YEAR IN SOUTH INDIA. THE SUBRAMANIAM
HAVE TWO MARRIED DAUGHTERS AND ONE SON. THE SON IS STUDYING
AT THE ENGINEERING COLLEGE IN MADRAS. MRS. SUBRAMANIAM
IS QUIET BUT A PLEASANT CONVERSATION PARTNER.

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ABIDA AHMED (PRONOUNCED AH-'-MED), WIFE OF THE PRESIDENT OF

INDIA: LIKE HER HUSBAND, MRS. AHMED COMES FROM THE HIGHEST STRATA OF MUSLIM SOCIETY IN INDIA. AN ATTRACTIVE LADY OF POISE AND WARMTH, SHE WAS EDUCATED AT THE ELITE QUEEN MARY'S SCHOOL AND THE MUSLIM GIRL'S COLLEGE IN AGRA. HER MAJOR FIELDS OF STUDY WERE HISTORY AND LITERATURE. MRS. AHMED IS A PORTRAIT PAINTER AND IS INTERESTED IN THE THEATER. SHE IS AN EASY CONVERSATION PARTNER, ALERT, AND POSSESSES A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR. SHE HAS FREQUENTLY ASSISTED HER HUSBAND DURING HIS LONG CAREER IN POLITICS AND HAS OFTEN SPEARHEADED RELIEF EFFORTS IN THE WAKE OF MAJOR CRISES, SUCH AS THE 1971 REFUGEE INFLUX THAT PRECEDED THE BANGLADESH WAR. THE AHMEDS HAVE TWO SONS AND ONE DAUGHTER. THE DAUGHTER IS MARRIED TO A DOCTOR AND LIVES IN FLORIDA.

SARDARNI SINGH (PRONOUNCED SING), WIFE OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE: MRS. SINGH NEVER RPT NEVER ACCOMPANIES HER HUSBAND TO SOCIAL FUNCTIONS. THE SINGHS HAVE FOUR DAUGHTERS.

SHAMIE SINGH (PRONOUNCED SING), WIFE OF THE FOREIGN SECRETARY: MRS. SINGH IS A WOMAN OF INTELLIGENCE AND POLISH.

SHE HAD FINISHED FOUR YEARS OF STUDY TOWARDS AN M.D. WHEN SHE MARRIED HER HUSBAND AND HAS SINCE ACCOMPANIED HIM ON A VARIETY OF DIPLOMATIC POSTS IN ASIA AND EUROPE. SHE IS PLEASANT, SOFT-SPOKEN AND CREATIVE. SHE IS INVOLVED IN RED CROSS WORK AND IS PRESIDENT OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION. ONE DAUGHTER IS MARRIED TO A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER. A SON, ALSO A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WHO WAS HELD IN EXTREMELY CLOSE AFFECTION BY HIS PARENTS, DIED IN A FIRE FOUR YEARS AGO.

INDRANI RAM (PRONOUNCED RAHM), WIFE OF THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION: MRS. RAM SPEAKS ONLY HINDI AND DOES NOT ACCOMPANY HER HUSBAND TO SOCIAL FUNCTIONS. SHE IS QUIET AND WITHDRAWN IN COMPANY OUTSIDE FAMILY CIRCLES. THE RAMS HAVE TWO CHILDREN.

2. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE TO SECRETARIAT OFFICERS ON THEIR ARRIVAL IN NEW DELHI ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIES OF WOMEN WHOM MRS. KISSINGER MAY MEET AT SOCIAL FUNCTIONS. SEPTTEL ON MRS. KISSINGER'S ESCORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICER, MRS. H.K. KOCHAR, FOLLOWS.
SCHNEIDER

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